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New spy curbs are good

The U.S. Senate has voted overwhelmingly to curb the indiscriminate use of wiretaps and other electronic surveillance by any branch of government.

It is a law that has been in the discussion stages for 10 years, and the lack of it has led the nation into some painful days.

The new bill requires that any and all such surveillance measures first be approved by a designated federal judge, for a specified period of time.

It will be up to the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court to name seven federal jurists who can issue such warrants, and each must be presented to a judge by the attorney general with the president's authority.

The thrust of the legislation is to prohibit the excesses which have grown through the years, some of which led to Watergate, some of which now are charged to former FBI chief L. Patrick Gray, and some of which

have been laid to other federal agencies.

The practice of using warrantless wiretaps and other electronic surveillance apparently had its genesis in decades gone by, but the abuses have grown with each passing year.

The new bill is the outgrowth of extensive hearings and investigations by the House and Senate, whose members sought to cure the problem without hamstringing any of the intelligence agencies.

It appears the probers did their homework well, and that the proposed law will protect the legitimate interests of the FBI, CIA and other agencies while simultaneously extending constitutional protections to the public.

The Senate vote was 95-1, and the matter now is in the House where its passage seems assured; though by a less dramatic majority.

Speedy House action would be a benefit to everyone.

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24 April 1978

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CIA data: spy chief here fired on choice of targets

By Bob Olmstead

Newly released CIA memos indicate that the head of the Chicago police spy unit was fired in 1967 because he was more interested in fighting organized crime than groups his superiors considered subversive.

Capt. William J. Duffy was demoted to district watch commander two months after CIA agents and one of Duffy's superiors discussed him as a "problem."

The inside look at dealings between the CIA and Chicago police was revealed Sunday in Central Intelligence Agency documents obtained by the Alliance to End Repression under a court order. The Alliance is suing the Chicago Police Department, the CIA and others for spying on lawful political activity in Chicago.

THE DOCUMENTS state that two CIA agents met with Duffy, then-Supt. James B. Conlisk Jr. and Deputy Supt. John F. Mulchrone to offer the CIA's help in improving the police department's intelligence work.

At the Dec. 11, 1967, meeting a memo states, the CIA experts recommended "the automation of special files on subversive groups and on organized crime. . . . These files are too sensitive to be incorporated in the CPD General Name Index which is, in effect, open to the public."

Intelligence Director Duffy was supposed to follow up with a visit to CIA headquarters. But the CIA noted problems with Duffy, who was a pioneer in developing police methods of spying on organized crime gangsters.

"Another problem that the team noted is an uncertainty about the mission of the Intelligence Division," a CIA memo said.

"DIRECTOR DUFFY, by background and inclination, feels that his division should be concentrating on long-range intelligence operations against organized crime. However, for the past two years, his assets have been pressed into service to gather tactical intelligence on civil disturbances."

The documents state that the two agents who came to Chicago were personally briefed before their trip by Richard H. Helms, then the CIA director. One of the agents (their names were deleted from the reports) said Helms told them he wanted to help improve local police spy units because of the lessons from racial riots in Newark and Detroit earlier in 1967.

"As a concerned citizen, Mr. Helms felt that the experience and techniques that the CIA has developed in foreign intelligence operations should be made available to law enforcement agencies in this country."

In Chicago, Richard Gutman, attorney for the Alliance to End Repression, called the CIA's involvement with Chicago police illegal and a spur to Chicago Red Squad abuses.

Congress' mandate creating the CIA, he said, gave it no police powers or internal security functions, and "thus implicitly restricts the CIA to the field of foreign intelligence."

BECAUSE THE CIA "helped streamline the Chicago Red Squad," Gutman said, "the CIA is partially responsible for the many Red Squad abuses since 1967."

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WASHINGTON POST

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CIA, Chicago Police Links Are Detailed

By Larry Green
Los Angeles Times

CHICAGO—Details of a mutual once-secret and possibly illegal relationship between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Chicago Police Department during the late 1960s have begun to surface here.

Internal CIA memos, now part of a court file, show that former agency director Richard Helms approved a plan to send experts in spying to evaluate the police department's intelligence-gathering machinery and to assist in improving the local spy operation.

While the memos, disclosed in a lawsuit, do not make clear the total assistance the police department received, or if similar assistance was given to other American law enforcement agencies, one document contains a proposal to train Chicago police officers at CIA facilities and at CIA expense.

The documents indicate the CIA's assistance was primarily intended to help the police deal with civil unrest. But previously disclosed Chicago police documents show the local spy effort was eventually directed toward individuals and groups engaged in controversial political activity but never investigated for criminal activity.

Court records show that the Chicago Police Department's intelligence unit

compiled dossiers on almost 200,000 individual and groups both before and after receiving CIA assistance. Included were files on prominent lawyers, businessmen, politicians, clergy and scholars. There were also dossiers on church groups, neighborhood organizations and citizens concerned about such diverse issues as pollution and police brutality.

Although there is nothing in the court documents to indicate the Chicago Police Department reciprocated for the CIA's assistance, informed sources said much of the raw data gathered on individuals and groups was forwarded to the CIA for incorporation into its files.

A presidential commission headed by Nelson D. Rockefeller and a U.S. Senate committee headed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), which investigated CIA activities in 1975 and 1976 re-agency and the Chicago Police Departmented the relationship between the ment. However, the documents now being turned over in U.S. District Court in Chicago are believed to be the first made public indicating the full extent of that relationship.

The documents are being given to lawyers representing the Alliance to End Repression, a group created to monitor and issue public reports on police performance. The group was financed, in part, by the federal Law Enforcement Resistance Administration.

The alliance filed one of three complex class-action suits now in federal court here charging the Chicago Police Department, the FBI, the Army and the CIA with illegally spying on First Amendment rights and who were taking part in political activity and are protected by the Constitution.

Richard Guthan, a lawyer for the alliance, said the CIA documents indicate the agency, by assisting the Chicago Police Department, has "illegally involved in domestic affairs."

"I don't think that the CIA helped the Chicago police Red Squad [as the intelligence division is known] for purely altruistic reasons," Gutman added. "I think the CIA was attempting to develop the Chicago Red Squad as a source of information for the CIA's own domestic spy program, Operation Chaos, which began in August 1967."

Both the Chicago Police Department and the CIA declined to comment on the documents because they are involved in litigation.

CIA memos indicate the relationship with the Chicago Police Department began in late 1967, after the former Chicago police superintendent, James B. Conlisk Jr., along with several police officials from other cities, were Helms' guests at CIA headquarters.

In October 1967, Conlisk wrote Helms saying he wanted "to avail this department of the opportunity of an evaluation of our procedures and advice and counsel in the areas which you [Helms] suggested."

Conlisk indicated he was anxious for the project to begin because he expected Chicago to "experience a substantial measure of activity in sensitive areas" as a result of the announcement that the 1968 Democratic National Convention would be held in the city. Other memos show that a two-man team, operating as representatives of another government agency and apparently not using their own names, was sent to Chicago in November 1967.

Among the recommendations generated by that team were proposals for improving the gathering and evaluating of intelligence during the early stages of a potential civil disturbance and for improving the method in which files are kept on "subversive groups and organized crime."